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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR SHAPE JAMES' STATEMENT ON IMPLOSION OF KRETCHMER HOMES

"The razing of one public high rise in St. Louis many years ago was hailed as 'a bold experiment.'

"But today in Newark, we are blazing new paths in building quality low-rise townhomes for residents of public housing. We have demolished most of Columbus Homes, with the remainder of the buildings slated to come down within the next few months. And, beautiful new townhouses are already dotting the landscape where the other Columbus Homes highrises were just a short time ago.

"We are taking down three buildings at Kretchmer Homes today. In the near future, structures at both Walsh and Hayes Homes will be razed.

"Within the next year, the Newark Housing Authority, under Executive Director Harold Lucas, intends to demolish most of its high-rise complexes, with the result that the agency will have knocked down 34 buildings containing 3,000 apartments.

"At the conclusion of this effort, there will be no unoccupied high-rises left in this City. It will be difficult to distinguish public housing townhouses from the other townhomes being built, and Newark will enter an era where only quality housing will be erected to foster dignity, self-esteem and pride in all Newark residents."